

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 9 being independent. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 8, and 9 have been amended. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct informalities, and to attend to the Examiner's objections, as discussed below. Replacement sheet 6/7 is also being submitted herewith, with amended Figures 8A, 8B, and 9. Support for the amendments to the claims, specification, and drawings can be found in the application, as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Applicant acknowledges that claim 9 has been allowed, and that claims 2-7 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2-7 have not been rewritten in independent form, inasmuch as independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable, as discussed further below.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because Figures 8A, 8B, and 9 should be designated --Prior Art--, and because they do not contain reference numerals mentioned in the specification. Applicant submits herewith Replacement Sheet 6/7, which contains amended Figures 8A, 8B, and 9, each labeled --Prior Art--. Figure 8A has also been amended to include reference numerals 201-R, 201-G, 201-B, 202-R, 202-G, and 202-B; and Figure 9 has been amended to include reference numeral 207. Moreover, the specification has been amended to re-present reference numerals 205, V206 with appropriate suffixes, to correspond to the figures. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings are requested.

The specification and claim 2 were also objected to in the Office Action for informalities. The specification and claim 2 have been amended to obviate these objections. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are requested.

Regarding art rejections, claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,614,934 (Yoshida et al.). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Yoshida et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,227 (Denton et al.). Applicant traverses these rejections.

As now set forth in independent claim 1, an aspect of Applicant's invention recites a color image forming apparatus including a sensor, a correcting unit, an adjusting unit, and a calculating unit. The sensor detects chromaticity of a patch to be formed on a transferring member. The correcting unit performs shading correction of an output from the sensor. The adjusting unit adjusts the color image forming conditions based on a corrected output from the correcting unit when the sensor detects a patch for adjustment of color image forming conditions to be formed on a transferring material. The calculating unit calculates a shading correction value of the correcting unit based on a detected value when the sensor detects a patch for calculation of the shading correction value.

Thus, according to Applicant's invention, shading correction of an output of a sensor is corrected using a shading correction value calculated based on a detected value of a patch.

Applicant submits that many features of Applicant's claimed invention are not taught or suggested by the cited art.

Yoshida et al. relates to a printer in which printed data is read by a color sensor, with the color sensor producing an output detection signal. A feedback control circuit produces a control signal for color correction according to the output signal of the color sensor, and sends the control signal to a color correction circuit. The color correction circuit is adjusted and corrects the colors of the pictorial data to be printed. Specifically, Applicant understands the color correction circuit of Yoshida et al. to be for correcting image forming conditions. However, Yoshida et al. is not understood to teach or suggest a correcting unit that performs shading correction of an output from a sensor, as recited in independent claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 recites features that patentably define that claim over Yoshida et al. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

The secondary citation to Denton et al. relates to a color adjustment method for a laser printer with multiple print resolutions, and is understood to be cited only for teaching features of dependent claim 8. Without conceding the propriety of the Office Action's characterization of Denton et al. or of the proposed combination, Applicant submits that Denton et al. does nothing to remedy the deficiencies of Yoshida et al., as discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 8 is allowable over the art of record. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

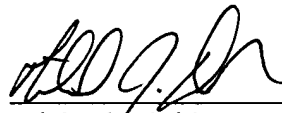
The remaining claims depend from claim 1, and are submitted to be allowable by virtue of that dependency, and for reciting other patentable features of Applicant's invention. Favorable consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

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IN THE FIGURES:

Please replace drawing sheet 6/7 (containing Figures 8A, 8B, and 9) with attached replacement sheet 6/7 (containing amended Figures 8A, 8B, and 9).